

Appl. No. 10/671,240  
Amendment dated January 3, 2005  
Reply to Office Action mailed October 26, 2004

This listing of claims will replace all prior versions, and listings, of claims in the application:

Listing of Claims (deleted text being struck through and added text being underlined):

- 1        1. (Currently Amended) A vegetation support, comprising:  
2              an elongate pole having an interior, and top and bottom ends, said  
3              pole having a longitudinal axis extending between said top and  
4              bottom ends, said bottom having an opening into the interior of  
5              said pole;  
6              said pole having alternating first and second sets of bores  
7              therethrough, said bores of said first set of bores being extended  
8              in a first direction, said bores of said second set of bores being  
9              extended in a second direction;  
10             a plurality of elongate dowels, each dowel having opposite first and  
11              second ends, and a length defined between said first and second  
12              ends of said dowel;  
13             each of said dowels being inserted through an associated bore of said  
14              pole;  
15             said bottom end of said pole having a pair of ~~diametrically opposed~~  
16              elongate slots;  
17             an auger member having a top turning portion and a bottom corkscrew  
18              portion, said corkscrew portion being for insertion into a ground  
19              surface, said turning portion of said auger member having a  
20              generally T-shaped handle, said handle of said turning portion of  
21              said auger member having a pair of arms; and  
22             said turning portion of said auger member being inserted into said  
23              opening of said bottom of said pole, each of said arms of said  
24              handle of said turning portion of said auger member being  
25              inserted into an associated slot of said bottom end of said pole;

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26       wherein each of said slots has a locking notch, wherein each of said  
27       arms of said handle of said turning portion of said auger member  
28       is inserted into an associated slot of said bottom end of said pole  
29       such that each of said arms of said handle may be inserted into  
30       the locking notch of the associated slot of said bottom end of  
31       said pole to help hold said handle of said auger member to said  
32       bottom end of said pole.

1           2. (Original) The vegetation support of claim 1, wherein said top has  
2       an opening into the interior of said pole, wherein a cap is inserted into said  
3       opening of said top end of said pole such that said cap substantially covers  
4       said opening of said top end of said pole.

1           3. (Original) The vegetation support of claim 1, wherein said bores  
2       are extended substantially perpendicular to said longitudinal axis of said  
3       pole, and wherein said bores of said first set of bores are extended  
4       substantially perpendicular to said bores of said second set of bores.

1           4. (Original) The vegetation support of claim 1, wherein said bores of  
2       said first set of bores are generally equidistantly spaced apart from the  
3       adjacent bores of said first set of bores.

1           5. (Original) The vegetation support of claim 1, wherein said bores of  
2       said second set of bores are generally equidistantly spaced apart from the  
3       adjacent bores of said second set of bores.

1           6. (Original) The vegetation support of claim 1, wherein said pole has  
2       a length defined between said top and bottom ends of said pole of less than  
3       about 6 feet, wherein said pole has a diameter of less than about 2 inches,  
4       wherein adjacent bores of said first set of bores are spaced apart less than  
5       about 12 inches from each other, wherein adjacent bores of said second set  
6       of bores are spaced apart less than about 12 inches from each other, and

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7 wherein each bore of said first set of bores is spaced apart from adjacent  
8 bores of said second set of bores less than about 6 inches.

1       7. (Original) The vegetation support of claim 1, wherein said length  
2 of each of said dowels is less than about 14 inches.

1       8. (Original) The vegetation support of claim 1, wherein said first end  
2 of each of said dowels is tapered.

1       9. (Original) The vegetation support of claim 1, wherein each of said  
2 dowels has an annular stop therearound, said annular stop being positioned  
3 between said first and second ends of said dowel, wherein each of said  
4 dowels is inserted through an associated bore of said pole such that said  
5 annular stops of said dowels abut said pole.

10. (Cancelled)

1       11. (Original) A vegetation support, comprising:  
2       an elongate pole being generally cylindrical and having an interior,  
3       and top and bottom ends, said pole having a longitudinal axis  
4       extending between said top and bottom ends, said top having an  
5       opening into the interior of said pole, said bottom having an  
6       opening into the interior of said pole;  
7       said pole having alternating first and second sets of bores  
8       therethrough, said bores being extended substantially  
9       perpendicular to said longitudinal axis of said pole, said bores  
10      of said first set of bores being extended substantially  
11      perpendicular to said bores of said second set of bores;  
12      said bores of said first set of bores being generally equidistantly  
13      spaced apart from the adjacent bores of said first set of bores;  
14      said bores of said second set of bores being generally equidistantly  
15      spaced apart from the adjacent bores of said second set of bores;

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16 wherein said pole has a length defined between said top and bottom  
17 ends of said pole of less than about 6 feet;  
18 wherein said pole has a diameter of less than about 2 inches;  
19 wherein adjacent bores of said first set of bores are spaced apart less  
20 than about 12 inches from each other, wherein adjacent bores of  
21 said second set of bores are spaced apart less than about 12  
22 inches from each other, wherein each bore of said first set of  
23 bores is spaced apart from adjacent bores of said second set of  
24 bores less than about 6 inches;  
25 a plurality of elongate dowels, each dowel being generally cylindrical  
26 and having opposite first and second ends, and a length defined  
27 between said first and second ends of said dowel, wherein said  
28 length of each of said dowels is less than about 14 inches, each  
29 of said dowels having a diameter of less than about 3/8 inch,  
30 said first end of each of said dowels being tapered;  
31 each of said dowels having an annular stop therearound, said annular  
32 stop being positioned between said first and second ends of said  
33 dowel, said annular stop being positioned three-fourths of the  
34 length of said dowel from said first end of said dowel;  
35 each of said dowels being inserted through an associated bore of said  
36 pole such that said annular stops of said dowels abut said pole;  
37 a cap being inserted into said opening of said top end of said pole  
38 such that said cap substantially covers said opening of said top  
39 end of said pole;  
40 said bottom end of said pole having a pair of diametrically opposed  
41 elongate slots, the lengths of said slots extending from said  
42 bottom end of said pole towards said top end of said pole  
43 substantially parallel to said longitudinal axis of said pole, each  
44 of said slots having a locking notch;  
45 an auger member having a top turning portion and a bottom generally  
46 helical corkscrew portion, said corkscrew portion being for

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47           insertion into a ground surface, said turning portion of said  
48        auger member having a generally T-shaped handle, said handle  
49        of said turning portion of said auger member having a pair of  
50        arms; and

51        said turning portion of said auger member being inserted into said  
52        opening of said bottom of said pole, each of said arms of said  
53        handle of said turning portion of said auger member being  
54        inserted into an associated slot of said bottom end of said pole  
55        such that each of said arms of said handle may be inserted into  
56        the locking notch of the associated slot of said bottom end of  
57        said pole to help hold said handle of said auger member to said  
58        bottom end of said pole.

1        12. (Previously Presented) A vegetation support, comprising:  
2        an elongate pole having an interior, and top and bottom ends, said  
3        pole having a longitudinal axis extending between said top and  
4        bottom ends, said bottom having an opening into the interior of  
5        said pole;  
6        said pole having alternating first and second sets of bores  
7        therethrough, said bores of said first set of bores being extended  
8        in a first direction, said bores of said second set of bores being  
9        extended in a second direction;  
10       a plurality of elongate dowels, each dowel having opposite first and  
11        second ends, and a length defined between said first and second  
12        ends of said dowel;  
13       each of said dowels being inserted through an associated bore of said  
14        pole;  
15       said bottom end of said pole having a pair of diametrically opposed  
16        elongate slots;  
17       an auger member having a top turning portion and a bottom corkscrew  
18        portion, said corkscrew portion being for insertion into a ground

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19                 surface, said turning portion of said auger member having a  
20                 generally T-shaped handle, said handle of said turning portion of  
21                 said auger member having a pair of arms;  
22                 said turning portion of said auger member being inserted into said  
23                 opening of said bottom of said pole, each of said arms of said  
24                 handle of said turning portion of said auger member being  
25                 inserted into an associated slot of said bottom end of said pole;  
26                 and  
27                 wherein each of said slots has a locking notch, wherein each of said  
28                 arms of said handle of said turning portion of said auger member  
29                 is inserted into an associated slot of said bottom end of said pole  
30                 such that each of said arms of said handle may be inserted into  
31                 the locking notch of the associated slot of said bottom end of  
32                 said pole to help hold said handle of said auger member to said  
33                 bottom end of said pole.

1                 13. (Previously Presented) The vegetation support of claim 12,  
2                 wherein said top has an opening into the interior of said pole, wherein a cap  
3                 is inserted into said opening of said top end of said pole such that said cap  
4                 substantially covers said opening of said top end of said pole.

1                 14. (Previously Presented) The vegetation support of claim 12,  
2                 wherein said bores are extended substantially perpendicular to said  
3                 longitudinal axis of said pole, and wherein said bores of said first set of  
4                 bores are extended substantially perpendicular to said bores of said second  
5                 set of bores.

1                 15. (Previously Presented) The vegetation support of claim 12,  
2                 wherein said bores of said first set of bores are generally equidistantly  
3                 spaced apart from the adjacent bores of said first set of bores.

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1        16. (Previously Presented) The vegetation support of claim 12,  
2 wherein said bores of said second set of bores are generally equidistantly  
3 spaced apart from the adjacent bores of said second set of bores.

1        17. (Previously Presented) The vegetation support of claim 12,  
2 wherein said pole has a length defined between said top and bottom ends of  
3 said pole of less than about 6 feet, wherein said pole has a diameter of less  
4 than about 2 inches, wherein adjacent bores of said first set of bores are  
5 spaced apart less than about 12 inches from each other, wherein adjacent  
6 bores of said second set of bores are spaced apart less than about 12 inches  
7 from each other, and wherein each bore of said first set of bores is spaced  
8 apart from adjacent bores of said second set of bores less than about 6  
9 inches.

1        18. (Previously Presented) The vegetation support of claim 12,  
2 wherein said length of each of said dowels is less than about 14 inches.

1        19. (Previously Presented) The vegetation support of claim 12,  
2 wherein said first end of each of said dowels is tapered.

1        20. (Previously Presented) The vegetation support of claim 12,  
2 wherein each of said dowels has an annular stop therearound, said annular  
3 stop being positioned between said first and second ends of said dowel,  
4 wherein each of said dowels is inserted through an associated bore of said  
5 pole such that said annular stops of said dowels abut said pole.